FEATURES

Resident starts “True Local Heroes” website

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

December 9, 2023 . 8:53 PM — 1 min read

Lara Pienaar and her sister-in-law and business partner Adele van Rossum

By Joyce Westner Dec. 9, 2023

When Lara Pienaar, a decade long-resident of Winchester in the school district, was looking for help raking leaves, she needed help raking

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leaves but she didn’t know how to hire someone. “I put an ad on Craigslist,” she said. “But I got so many responses, it was overwhelming.”

Realizing that so many people needed the same sort of thing, she decided to create a website that would help local residents find workers, while also helping workers find customers. https://www.truelocalheroes.com/ was born, and for a fee residents can sign up as “Neighbors,” but workers can sign up for free as “Heroes.”

Pienaar is working on an app, and she’s also hoping to launch it in other communities. A former organizational psychologist, she started working on the website just before Covid, while she was staying with her mother in Cape Town, South Africa. She needed to make sure that it would be safe for kids to sign up as heroes, if they want baby-sitting jobs, or if they want to earn money raking leaves, so she requires anyone joining to upload a photo and verify their identity.

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Poster of True Local Heroes website

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‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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March 4, 2026

FEATURES

Celebrating Black history and culture with art, reflection, and community

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Winchester community came together last week at the Griffin Museum of Photography for the inaugural Black History and Culture Celebration, an evening filled with music, student creativity, and powerful messages about equity, unity, and the enduring legacy of Black

March 3, 2026

FEATURES

Winchester residents share more snow photos

Well, Winchester, we made it through the weekend with only a coating of snow that

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Winchester Community Music School set to expand, upgrade

The big events in Winchest
Music School always take place in Nichols

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amounted to nothing on Sunday afternoon. But during the Feb. 22-23 blizzard, Winchester News once again asked residents to send their snow photos. And here is what we received! Solmaz Amirnazmi said her daughters and

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March 2, 2026

Performance Hall. With the school and its performances’ growing in popularity, the hall and many of its amenities are due for an upgrade. The performance hall is one of the main areas that the school seeks to

TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY | CORRESPONDENT

February 26, 2026

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women’s History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester’s School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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